

Tanfield Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR 1896.

STANLEY,

FEBRUARY 18th, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1896, giving the amount of sickness from Zymotic Diseases, Vital Statistics, and a general account of the Sanitary Condition of the District.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Apart from an epidemic of Measles, Infectious Diseases have not been very prevalent during the year. The number of notifiable cases reported to me was 65, and the non-notifiable that came under my notice, 150. The latter consisted of Measles 130, Whooping Cough 20; and the former were made up as follows, viz: Scarlatina 49, Enteric Fever 2, Diphtheria 1, Croup 1, Puerperal Fever 3, Erysipelas 9.



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Scarlatina might almost be considered a permanent residence. The district was apparently free all September, but it re-started the following month, and the initial case appeared in comparatively recently infected premises. One case (successfully isolated) was an importation, the remainder were practically traceable to an outbreak that began in October the previous year. The type of disease was mild in character except the imported case, and it ended fatally. The portion of district affected was included in the villages of Hobson, Barnopfield, Friarside, Lintz, White-le-head and Tanfield Lea. Only one case remained to be dealt with at the end of the year.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever. Only two cases of this disease were notified, one of which occurred in the month of January at Lintz, and the other at Causey in May. The source of the latter was most probably outside the district, the former originated on the spot being the off-spring of a previous case. No district in the County shews a better record as regards this fever.

Diphtheria being the most acutely infectious of all Zymotic Diseases, it was somewhat remarkable that the solitary case reported ended the outbreak, although the patient was daily in contact with both adults and children during the whole supposed infective period. No apparent cause could be found for its origin.

Croup. The one case began and ended in a similar manner to Diphtheria.

Puerperal Fever. It is doubtful if the cases were true specific fever, at any rate infection was not conveyed from one to the other. Febrile attacks after childbirth especially where the Symptoms appear serious, are usually returned as Puerperal Fever.

Erysipelas was unimportant so far as concerns infection, all the cases being solitary ones, and many resulted from abscess or some form of injury.

Measles. In the beginning of June, Measles crossed over from the adjoining district to White-le-Head, and the medium of conveyance was undoubtedly the half-way schools. It spread to all the surrounding villages, reaching its height about the middle

of July, eventually ceasing rather abruptly in August. Considering the rapid manner the outbreak extended, practically over the entire district, the cases were less numerous than might have been expected.

Whooping Cough made its appearance in July and December. The first outbreak was limited to half-a-dozen families, but the second was extending at the end of the year.

Diarrhœa was never prevalent, and none of the cases presented any marked peculiarity. Disinfectants have been supplied by your Inspector in all cases of infectious diseases, and where practicable fumigation was also resorted to, but it is almost impossible to carry out a thorough system of disinfection in ordinary dwelling-houses.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year amounted to 257, and the deaths to 103, the birth-rate was equal to 35·2, and the death-rate to 14·1 per 1000 per annum, estimating the population at 7,300. It will be noticed that the births were considerably over double the number of deaths. Infectious diseases were responsible for 7 deaths, viz : Scarlatina, 1 ; Measles, 2 ; and Diarrhœa, 4. Excluding the last mentioned, the mortality was exceedingly light in proportion to the amount of sickness. Infantile Mortality, unless increased by deaths during epidemics, maintains the usual average rate. There were 35 deaths under the age of one year, and 18 between one and five years. The former makes a third of the total deaths, and the addition of the latter shews that half the population succumb under 5 years.

INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

The villages comprising your district, with some account of their sanitary condition are given below.

Burnopfield. Excepting six houses that are at present undergoing repairs, and some slightly defective property at Fondley Set, this village may be classed satisfactory. The sewage flows on to land some distance from the dwellings—a small system of broad irrigation.

Leazes. Fairly good, properly sewered and connected.

Friarside. Notices have been served upon the owner to repair 17 houses and their attached out-offices. The improvements are now proceeding. The village is without drains, and there is no out-fall provided for the sewage.

Middle Friarside. Notice of closure has been served upon the owner of one house, considered unfit for habitation.

Lintz. The major portion of this village has been spouted and a number of houses repaired. A street of houses were in a damp condition owing to an embankment of soil near the front walls, the whole was removed with good results, there still remain however, some in the back walls that could easily be remedied. The drainage is satisfactory.

Upper Lintz. The few houses are in good order.

Hobson. Improvements that were needed to old property have been carried out. The South part of the Village was effectually sewered and connected. It is intended eventually to have the sewage conveyed to the out-fall works at Tantobie.

Mountsett. Two houses requiring structural alterations, and two others with fallen gables were put into satisfactory condition. The small quantity of sewage empties into a ditch on the main road.

Clough Dene. Six insanitary houses under orders for alterations or closure, five have been thoroughly repaired, the one remaining is not repairable. The sewage joins the Hobson outlet.



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Tantobie. Six condemned houses were rebuilt. Ten out-offices in connection with old property altered or repaired. Many houses were spouted, and all minor faults remedied. Twelve houses although considered habitable might still be made more comfortable, only structural changes would be needed. An old tenemented house stands first on the list for improvement. The whole village has a complete system of drainage with excellent intermittant filter beds for the sewage.

White-le-head. The village is effectually drained, and the sewage empties into the above-mentioned filter beds. Many houses were spouted and otherwise improved, and their attached out-offices repaired. There are 15 houses whose condition closely resembles those referred to in the preceding village.

Tanfield Lea. The houses are good, and their out-offices satisfactory. The sewage is carried off by a combination of channels and drains, and finally empties into the Houghel Burn, Tanfield. A few out-offices were practically re-built, and various improvements made in and to the surroundings of several premises. One delapidated house was closed. Piggeries and out-offices adjoining the main road are at times offensive. The worst dwelling-rooms in the district in occupation, can be found among the tenements in Tanfield Hall. Causey Houses ~~consisting of~~ ^{Half} the Blue Row, required ceilings, repairs to roofs, and windows, and spouting; so far, barely half have been attended to, although the owners received notice some months ago. The small village of Red Row, contains 6 defective houses, and measures should be taken to improve their condition as soon as possible. The sewage flows down a ditch on the main road. Among small blocks of dwelling-houses, only those at Crookgate Pit have sanitary defects, and they will be remedied in due time. New houses to the number of fifty, were built during the year, having all their sanitary arrangements in compliance with your bye-laws. The removal of refuse has been carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner, due in a great measure to the constant supervision of your Inspector.

Cowsheds and Dairies were found in good order.

Slaughter-houses created no nuisance.

No prosecution was necessary under the "Food and Drugs Act." Over-crowding was found, but not to the extent that legal proceedings would abate. Verbal notice, however, was effective. The water supply is both good and abundant, and covers the whole district, except Busty Bank, Old Pit, and Causey Red Row. The mains are laid to the first-mentioned place, and only require the connections. The others should have attention before summer. Before additional sewage is allowed to flow into the out-fall works at Tantobie, it will be necessary to increase the filtering beds, and also to overhaul those already in use.

In the summary of work done by your Inspector, during the year in every department under the Public Health Acts, he had served no less than 397 formal or written notices, and given almost as many verbal ones.

Schedules giving tables of Population, Diseases, Births, and Deaths are attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. BENSON,

MEDICAL OFFICER.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

TANFIELD

TABLE OF DEATHS.

UNDER 5 YEARS.					
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	11
Injuries	...	...	...	...	1
All Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	36
TOTAL					53

OVER 5 YEARS.					
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	...	...	...	...	2
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	5
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	8
Injuries	...	...	...	...	2
All Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	26
TOTAL					50

Mortality from all Causes at Subjoined Ages.

Under One Year	...	...	...	...	35
One and under Five Years	...	...	...	...	18
Five and under Fifteen	...	...	...	...	4
Fifteen and under Twenty-five	...	...	...	...	5
Twenty-five and under Sixty-five	...	...	...	...	25
Sixty-five and Upwards	...	...	...	...	16
TOTAL					103

Table of Population & of New Cases of Infectious Sickness during the year 1896.

Census 1891	...	...	...	...	6880
Estimated to middle of 1896	...	...	...	...	7300
Registered Births	...	...	...	...	257
UNDER 5 YEARS.					
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	20
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	1
OVER 5 YEARS.					
Scarlatina	29
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	2
Puerperal Fever	3
Erysipelas	9

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T. J. JACKSON, PRINTER, FRONT STREET, STANLEY.